



Wipe out Waste



Highbury Primary School

School population ~600 students and staff

Case Study

Introduction

Highbury Primary School launched their 'From Good to Great' campaign in 2014 to improve on existing recycling programs and further reduce the amount of materials they were sending to landfill.

Their carefully implemented process resulted in an 80% reduction in the volume of landfill materials in a matter of weeks.

"THE most significant things for us has been having Robyn (Science Teacher) teach explicit lessons across the school, the environmental forum, and having a team approach including leadership, student, staff, cleaners, groundsman input and working closely with you (KESAB and Wipe Out Waste)."
Dominica Thomson, Deputy Principal

Steps

1. The first step was a visit from KESAB waste educators who performed a bin assessment across the school to document existing collections and suggest improvements to the bin separation systems. They also talked with the cleaners and grounds man who know better than anyone how the bins look at the end of a school day!
2. The recommendations formed the basis of a successful grant application to Zero Waste SA to change bin systems.
3. KESAB and WOW completed a full bin materials audit with the students from the Environmental Forum, and the results set the goals and challenges for the school to



The bin materials audit at Highbury PS.

achieve waste reductions. The Environmental Forum presented the first of many talks on Highbury's WOW waste audit and actions to become more sustainable through recycling.

4. The new bins were selected and purchased and contractors were approached to quote for collection of mixed recycling and food scraps. The process was carefully coordinated to ensure that the new collection systems would operate efficiently as soon as the bins were in place.
5. Each class had a science lesson with Robyn to explain the new collection systems and their role in emptying the bins to the new skips. The caddies and compostable bags for food scraps were distributed and students decant the food scraps into the collection bin to reuse the compostable caddy liners a few times.
6. New bins were installed in the yard, staffroom, classrooms and key areas and many excess waste bins were removed.



Before and after pictures of the bins in the yard. There are fewer bins and a 10c container collection with a bottle for straws and lids.



Staffroom and office bin systems to collect recycling, batteries, cartridges and clean film plastic.

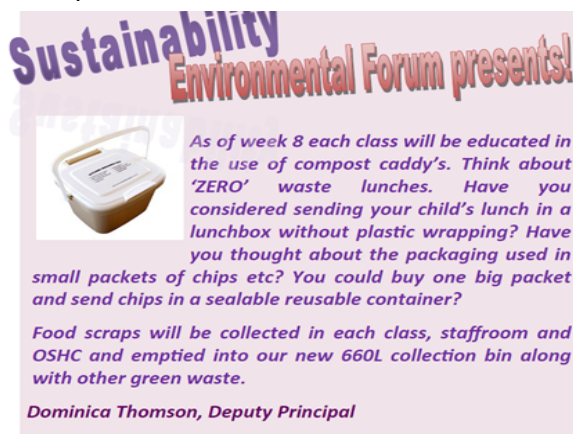


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7. Families are informed of progress via e-bulletins and were asked if they would like a caddy at home as part of Tea Tree Gully Council's program to reduce landfill. 150 households collected free caddies and compostable bags from the school and students ensure the system is used correctly at home.



An e-bulletin to the Highbury school community explaining the new systems.

8. Highbury staff and students continue to monitor and modify the collection systems to achieve efficient usage. For example -

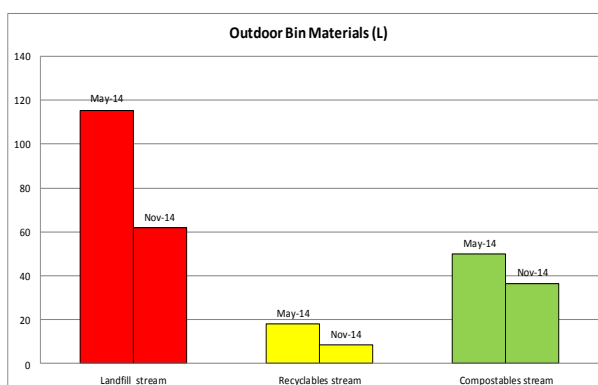
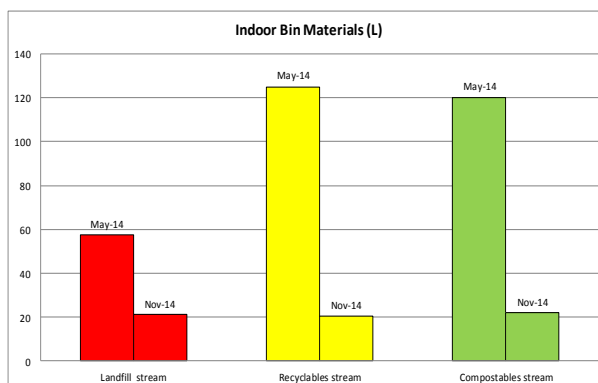
- The Junior Primary needed a way to collect food scraps in the yard so extra bins were introduced
- It was found to be more cost efficient to have a paper and card skip and put comingled recycling in a council kerbside recycling bin for collection.
- The new skips were labelled with instructions to reinforce the correct disposal of materials.
- The local recycling depot has provided a secure bin for 10 cent drink containers and collects them from the school.

9. A second audit of bin materials showed an amazing 80% reduction in waste to landfill in just two terms!

10. The Highbury Primary School journey is being shared with other sites through WOW and NRM Education workshops.

Benefits

The graphs below show the reduction in landfill bin materials by volume for indoor and outdoor bins:



There was a significant reduction in waste to landfill and importantly, the waste skip collections were halved. The other benefits include:

- Significantly less work for cleaners with fewer plastic bag lined waste bins to empty and 1000's of plastic bags no longer needed
- Grounds staff have more time for other projects as students now manage the outdoor bins
- OSHC and the preschool came on board and have the same separation systems and skip collections, embedding the processes across the whole site.

Highbury Primary School received a 2014 Wipe Out Waste award 'Best practice resource separation systems and learning'. Well done!



The new bins for 10c drink containers, food scraps and paper and cardboard with clear instructions for staff, students and cleaners to ensure correct disposal.



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